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son and others wished to quash the business of review. Unfortunately for this argument, the motion was made by a person wholly disinterested, and who had not been present the preceding year; namely, Dr. Wm. Neilson, who, I am persuaded, had no correspondence with Dr. Black, or those who generally voted with him, on the question relative to Dr. Dickson. Certainly this gentleman would never lend himself to support the unjust and arbitrary views of any party or faction whatsoever.

With respect to the erasure of the entire minute, "An Actor" and I have different opinions. I believe Mr. Porter thought he could not carry the point; "An Actor" thinks Mr. Porter conceived that it would be of *advantage* to let it remain; and that this was his motive for not bringing the motion forward. Certain I am, we must consider this his grand or principal motion; for the resolutions he brought forward, were, though of moment in themselves, yet in part intended to lead to its adoption. That he might come to it with greater effect, he moved a string of resolutions. Surely, therefore, none of these resolutions can with any propriety of speech be considered the *grand* motion. I believe men whose minds are not biassed by party-feeling, will regard the subject in this point of view.

It were easy for me to support other parts of my remarks, and animadvert on some inconclusive reasoning in "An Actor's" paper; but enough, more than enough, has been said. I therefore remain yours, &c.

AN OBSERVER.

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*For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.*

THE periodical publications have already informed the world of

the superlative and unparalleled abilities of Zarah Colburn\*, son of Mr. Colburn, of the state of Vermont, in America, a child just *nine years of age*, who possesses the singular faculty of solving a great variety of arithmetical questions, by the mere operation of the mind, and without the usual assistance of any visible symbol or contrivance.

When this faculty of mind, for which he is so remarkable, began to develop itself, it produced astonishment in the minds of those who witnessed it, they became interested in the child, and particularly wished that his peculiar talent should be cultivated by a proper education.

The wishes of the public exactly coincided with the father's desire, but his humble, though honourable avocation, rendered him unable to comply with that which lay nearest to his heart. From what he already knew of the abilities of his child, he looked forward with anxious anticipation to the time when he would throw new light upon the science of numbers, and communicate to the world his own peculiar rapid mode of calculation. When he looked upon himself, he plainly saw that "his lot forbade" to lead him through the labyrinth of mathematics, and opposed an insuperable barrier to the prosecution of a study, for which he seems to have been formed by nature; and which, if properly followed up, must ultimately be attended with the most lasting and important advantages to society in general, he was consequently thrown into a dilemma. In this state of suspense he was advised to publish the life of his son.

Conceiving this the most honourable and eligible mode of procedure

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\* Some account of this singular and interesting child was published at page 124, Vol. 10 of the Belfast Magazine.

for complying with the wishes of the public, and for carrying his plans into execution, he has collected the materials for the work, and these will be arranged for the press, by a respectable literary gentleman. Judging of their future patronage from his past experience of public kindness, his father flatters himself, that from the profits of this interesting work, he will be able to give his son the education of a learned man, at one of the Universities.

The work will be printed on the best paper, in a style of superior elegance, and embellished with a Portrait; along with the most remarkable incidents of his life, it will contain a minute detail of the development of his extraordinary faculties, an enumeration of several hundred intricate questions, and his extemporaneous answers; tables of his method of extracting the Cube and Square roots, and determining the differences of these roots.

The price to Subscribers will be a Guinea and a Half.

The following gentlemen, who are well acquainted with the extraordinary powers of this child, have kindly undertaken to receive subscriptions in Scotland and England:

Sir James Mackintosh,  
Sir H. Davy,  
Basil Montagu, Esq.,  
A. Carlye, Esq.,  
Professor Leslie.

In Ireland the following gentlemen have also undertaken to serve the child by receiving subscriptions, and will give a receipt for the same:

Rev. The Dean of Cork.  
Rev. Dr. Davenport,  
Rev. Archdeacon Brinkley,  
Rev. Dr. Mooney.

The names of subscribers are likewise received by Mr. Colburn, and will be handed over to one of the abovementioned gentlemen.

A few weeks ago Sarah Colburn, accompanied by his father, arrived in Belfast, on his way from Dublin to Glasgow college. At a meeting of the Managers of the Belfast Academical Institution on the 16th of November, he was introduced to the members, and exhibited some specimens of his extraordinary powers of mind, in the multiplication of figures. He was asked by a gentleman present, how much thirteen times 365 was? he instantaneously answered, 4745. He was then asked what was the cube-root of 307,546,875; he instantly answered 675. In short, there appeared to be no limits to the powers of his mind in calculation. These powers were first discovered when he was only six years old. At that period his father having, to his astonishment, accidentally heard him tell the produce of two figures multiplied together, asked him all the questions in the multiplication table, to which he gave correct answers, without stop or hesitation; he proceeded afterwards to ask him higher numbers, and in every instance he answered correctly. At the Coffee room in Belfast, he again exhibited his unequalled powers of calculation, while surrounded by great numbers of gentlemen. He was very playful, and quite at his ease, whilst his auditory were all puzzling their heads in devising the most intricate questions for his solution. They were, however, answered as quickly as they were proposed. From among the many the following are selected.

He was asked the cube root of 51,230,158,344; he answered almost instantaneously, 3714. Being asked the 4th root of 3,701,506, he said there was no root; which was true, the number having been (intentionally) wrong read. Again being asked the 4th root of 37,015,056, (the right number,) he answered 78. He mul-

multiplied 349,621 by 5, the product 1,748,105. He divided 2,608,735 by 4; and answered immediately 652,183. Being given the sum of two numbers, 728, and the difference 16, he was required to find the numbers, and answered 372 and 356. Being asked what factors would produce 765,621, he answered 85,069 multiplied by nine. Being given 877 as one of the factors for the same number, he gave the other 873. These are but a few of many answers, but sufficient to ascertain his wonderful and unaccountable talent.

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*To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.*

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A LETTER TO A LADY ON THE SUBJECT OF HER SON LEARNING LATIN.

**T**his is his season of life for learning languages, and those things which chiefly occupy the memory: this faculty is now in its full perfection with him, and should be fully employed; it is compared to an arch, which is strengthened by the weight laid upon it. In a few years the memory will rather decline, and the judgment ripens, when Arithmetic and mathematics will be in season. I know it is in fashion with many, who do not mean to send their sons to universities, to explode and decry Latin as an useless acquisition. It may perhaps be *unprofitable* in this sense, that it may bring them no money; the concerns of civil life may be transacted quite as well without it; the finest productions in that language are translated into the mother-tongue. French is more essential to accomplish the gentleman, to accommodate the traveller, and is the most universal vehicle of verbal communication. But Latin has been for ages past, and I believe will be for ages to come, (if the world stand) the ground-work of the literary part of liberal education; it is like the root

of all the most refined living languages, and when a foundation is laid in this, the rest are readily learned. In our own tongue, so many thousand words are adopted into our language, and become a part of it, and so many familiar Latin phrases and expressions are constantly used in word and writing, that an ignorance of Latin leaves one much in the dark as to understanding, and like bad spelling, betrays an original defect in one's tuition. An adept in Latin knows as it were by intuition, the powers and fitness of words derived from that fountain, and uses them accordingly. He has an opportunity of reading the finest historians, moralists, poets and orators, in a language to which no language does any thing like justice. Translations compared with such originals are like shadows compared with substance, and like unanimated compared with animated nature.

R. S.

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*To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.*

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GENTLEMEN,  
**Y**OUR Magazine for September last gives an account of an outrage committed by a young man of this county in the townland of Ballyeaston, 15 years ago, the truth of which I have no reason to doubt: yet I think the young man had no premeditated intention of injury in his mind; nor had he any interest in so doing, except to gratify a little idle folly in trying his horse. Had he met with men of so forgiving a disposition as your correspondent P. the matter would never have been spoken of. But your correspondent does not mention a single word of an under-landlord, not far distant from the same townland, who about two years ago made his tenants pay their rents in gold, which increased their rents every fourth penny; gold be-